



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
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Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board. Mark Siderius, Supervisor, came in late.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Ginger Kauffman and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Holly & Ian McKenzie; Elaina Gerner; Debbie Kauffman, Cayuse Prairie School; Aaron Claussen, MFW&P.

MINUTES: Discussion held. Amendments were made in the public comment section, and the motion under application FL2015029. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015, 310-Stream Permit meeting as amended." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. July 18, 2015 issue of NACD "Forestry Notes"
2. Glacier County Conservation District is hosting the annual Crop Tour, July 28, 2015, 5:30 PM, in Cutbank. Contact Belinda Knapton 406-845-2976.
3. Madison Conservation District is hosting the Montana Range Tour, September 16-17, Ennis, MT. Contact Sunni Heikes-Knapton 406-682-3181.
4. Free Montana State Fund Workshop "Hiring the Right Person the Right Way", September 24, Hampton Inn, Kalispell. Contact Kirk Smith 800-332-6102 Ext. 5361
5. Summer 2015 edition of Lower Musselshell CD newsletter "Conservation News"

FINANCIAL: The following bills were reviewed:

1. Health Care Services Corp \$1868.81
2. CenturyLink \$248.34
3. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
4. VISA \$735.78

Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

EDUCATION GRANT REPORT: Debbie Kauffman, Cayuse Prairie School, thanked the board for the grant towards the greenhouse project and passed around photos. She reported a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November of 2014 with the student body. Growing began that winter, and some foods were used in the lunch program. A 2015 spring bedding plant sale took place earning \$2300; 2/3 of which was profit, and was rolled back into the greenhouse. The 2015 summer school program also used the greenhouse. Harvest begins tomorrow, with food going to some families & the food bank. All students were involved in some way with the greenhouse, meeting a wide range of educational objectives.

NATURAL RESOURCE CAMP: Holly McKenzie stated she is chair for the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp (MNRYC), and thanked the board for sponsoring students from the Flathead. The camp had 35 kids this year. Ian McKenzie and Elaina Gerner also thanked the board, and reported on their experience at this year's camp with classes in soils, forestry, geology, water, wildlife & range.

NEW BUSINESS

RE-VEGETATION ASSISTANCE: Aaron Clausen, reported he has been hired as a temporary employee with FWP & is working out of their office as a Restoration Ecologist. As requested at the last meeting, he had done further research regarding making information available for re-vegetation. He had contacted Don MacIntyre, who said districts could not recommend private entities, however CD's do have the authority to work with FWP and other governmental agencies. The liability issue was discussed, and Ronald Buentemeier asked Aaron to think of what kind of projects he could be helpful on, and how the CD & FWP could interact.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC) – RESERVOIR MGMT PLAN: Camisha Sawtelle reported HBWC does not need the FCD to take up the issue of support of their presentation of a comprehensive reservoir management plan at this time. Discussion held.

2015 EDUCATION GRANTS: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to fund all the school education grant requests for a total amount of \$8748.25." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Camisha Sawtelle abstained from voting.*

FLATHEAD RIVER STEWARD (FRS) GR #223-15-3392: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the Flathead Lakers Invoice in the amount of \$4290 for FRS grant #223-15-3392, and forward to DNRC for payment." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED SPRAYING AGREEMENT: Discussion held regarding updates, made by the County Attorney, to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FCD and the Flathead Weed Dept. When the signed MOA is returned, it will be brought to the FCD board for approval and signature.

BUDGET: The June End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the June 2015 End of Budget report." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LAKE CD LETTER - AREA V WORKING GROUP: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier reported he had contacted Jim Simpson, Lake County Chairman, regarding an Area V Working Group, and noted he is willing to be the Flathead CD representative.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: No report.

RC REPORT: Valerie Kurth submitted the following report:

Cost-Share Program: I completed the cost-share contracts and compiled them with related documentation (management plan and W-9). All materials have been sent to the landowners, and contracts are effective as soon as both the landowner and a District supervisor has signed them.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC)

1. HBWC met on 6/23/15. The group discussed presenting their concerns about the Reservoir Management Plan to the Whitefish City Council on 8/3/15. I supplied them with materials (maps and a diagram) that the District was storing and may be helpful in the presentation. I also supplied the engineer at Jackola with more documentation about the culvert on Haskill Basin Road.
2. Megan Stockfisch helped me at the Haskill Creek – Reimer site on 7/2/15. We made sure all of the plant cages were upright and stable (many had tipped over since last fall), and we removed several cages that were ineffective (plant had died).

Outreach: I attended the Northwester Agricultural Research Center Field Tour on 6/24/15.

River Steward and River2Lake Initiative (R2L): We had River Steward partner meeting on 7/8/15. We discussed recent events, as well as future planning and priorities.

Sourcebook Curriculum Project: The team from Montana State University has completed drafts of the first three chapters, and all of them have been favorably reviewed by the partners. I am working with Lori Curtis to ensure the timely review of the drafts, as well as maintaining the budget details.

Training

1. I attended a weed identification training that was part of the Montana Native Plant Society meeting on 6/26/15.
2. The general WordPress training took place on 7/21/15. Thirteen people attended (7 CD-affiliated and 6 from local natural resource organizations), including FCD staff. Districts represented included Glacier, Lewis and Clark, Bitterroot, and Lincoln. Kate Arpin, from Montana Association of Conservation Districts, did a fantastic job showing us both the big picture and finer points of WordPress, and she thoroughly answered all of our questions.

TMDL: I coordinated landowner permissions for the Ashley Creek sampling, which included an initial phone call to establish permission and a follow-up phone call to remind them of the precise sampling date. The first round of sampling took place on 7/16/15, and nine sites were sampled. Additional sampling will occur in August and September.

AC REPORT: Kari Musgrove reported

Invasive Species Student Symposium, Big Creek, June 24-26

Fish: Ryan Kovach, USGS, taught students about the hybridization between non-native rainbow trout and native west slope cutthroat trout. He explained how this might lead to the genomic extinction of our native fish. Students went into the field and watched his crew electrofish, and collect length, weight, and genetic samples data. We visited Sekokini Springs Fish Hatchery, where they rear westslope cutthroat trout to stock in mountain lakes that have been treated with rotenone.

Weeds: Students pulled hawkweed in Glacier National Park along the Middle Fork of the Flathead. The USFS spoke about the ecological/economic impacts of noxious weeds & introduced the idea of biological control. The North Fork Landowner's Association shared how difficult it can be to manage weeds in a remote community where many of the homeowners are not residents. The Flathead Conservation District shared a weed identification presentation.

Thursday Fest, July 9: This was an excellent venue to share our programs. Two teachers signed up for the Project Learning Tree Workshop, and 6 people signed our weed workshop contact sheet.

Flathead Lakers Fundraiser, July 12: 150 paddlers gathered at Kings Point to participate in the first Flathead Lakers Poker Paddle. I was one of the many volunteers to help make this event a success. The Poker Paddle raised \$4000 to fund field trips for local elementary students to visit the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

Sourcebook Review: Currently we are reviewing new chapters as they are written and providing feedback.

The Flathead River Commission: In addition to taking the FRC's minutes at their July 20th meeting, I helped them design their brochure and display board.

The Fair: The embroidered hats are ordered. Our ad will be placed in the Beacon's Fair handout. Board, staff and Flathead River Commission members are scheduled to cover shifts at our booth. I met with the USFS & GNP on Monday, July 27, to determine how we'd like to share our space.

Project Learning Tree Workshop: I designed a poster. I met with *Women In Timber* & Holly McKenzie on July 27.

Website: WordPress Training, July 21; updated our website, July 22

Beacon Ads: This month we advertised our Project Learning Tree Workshop and 310 permits.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION (FBC) REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported Tom Smith is the new FBC chairman. The June 24 meeting included discussion of renewing the FBC strategic plan, which will include aquatic invasive species (AIS) as a primary focus, water quality monitoring plan, transboundary, treaty, coordination with BNSF railroad safety program (oil trains), drought planning for western Montana, TMDL, and less focus on wastewater management. Discussion held.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported 2 requests for changes from AG classification to SAG5 went to the County Commissioners with a positive recommendation; transition for the Whitefish donut area was also on the agenda.

MACD REPORT: Pete Woll reported dues have been received from all CD's except Yellowstone; a letter is being drafted through legal counsel. Convention will be held the 3rd week of November in Missoula.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported actions were taken on 2 annexations into the city, and Phase II of Monterra Condos was approved.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC): Mark Siderius reported the FRC brochure and display boards were completed, and a letter was drafted regarding permitting issues on the lower river.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: No report.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE (CFTF): Verdell Jackson reported Marc Spratt resigned as co-chair. There is no current activity with the CFTF. Verdell noted all basin plans were **not** funded by the Governor. Discussion held.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis submitted the following report: Rose Vallor has delivered excellent materials for the first 3 curriculum chapters. I combined and forwarded the Community of Resource Educators (CORE) committee member comments for the first chapter and provided my comments to Valerie Kurth for chapters 2&3. Valerie and I worked through finances and deliverables through September.

We received an additional \$1500 from the Flathead National Forest (FNF) toward the project, and the FNF RAC grant was funded for \$2880.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- 310 Follow-up Reports: Supervisors stated several projects were not done due to cost of engineering for Floodplain permits. This will be noted in database.
- Engineering report from River Design Group. Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion "to send John Muhlfeld a thank-you letter for his efforts on the Town Pump review." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Photo & Liability Release forms will be added to the August business meeting agenda for discussion.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2015, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

8/10/2015 Ronald Buentemeier Chairman
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)